



Gray Davis
Governor

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Governor's Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse



Tal Finney
Interim Director

Notice of Preparation

October 10, 2003

To: Reviewing Agencies

Re: PRC-421 Pier Removal
SCH# 2001021119

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671		# of pages ▶ 1
To Donna Hebert	From Eric Gillies	
Co. Padre	Co. State Lands	
Dept.	Phone # 916-574-1857	
Fax # 805-644-2050	Fax # 916-574-1885	

Attached for your review and comment is the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the PRC-421 Pier Removal draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Responsible agencies must transmit their comments on the scope and content of the NOP, focusing on specific information related to their own statutory responsibility, within 30 days of receipt of the NOP from the Lead Agency. This is a courtesy notice provided by the State Clearinghouse with a reminder for you to comment in a timely manner. We encourage other agencies to also respond to this notice and express their concerns early in the environmental review process.

Please direct your comments to:

Eric L. Gillies
California State Lands Commission
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-South
Sacramento, CA 95825-8202

with a copy to the State Clearinghouse in the Office of Planning and Research. Please refer to the SCH number noted above in all correspondence concerning this project.

If you have any questions about the environmental document review process, please call the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613.

Sincerely,

Scott Morgan
Associate Planner, State Clearinghouse

Attachments
cc: Lead Agency

AM

Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)

- ☐ RWQCB 1
Cathleen Hudson
North Coast Region (1)
- ☐ RWQCB 2
Environmental Document
Coordinator
San Francisco Bay Region (2)
- ☒ RWQCB 3
Central Coast Region (3)
- ☐ RWQCB 4
Jonathan Bishop
Los Angeles Region (4)
- ☐ RWQCB 5S
Central Valley Region (5)
- ☐ RWQCB 5F
Central Valley Region (5)
Fresno Branch Office
- ☐ RWQCB 5R
Central Valley Region (5)
Redding Branch Office
- ☐ RWQCB 6
Lahontan Region (6)
- ☐ RWQCB 6V
Lahontan Region (6)
Victorville Branch Office
- ☐ RWQCB 7
Colorado River Basin Region (7)
- ☐ RWQCB 8
Santa Ana Region (8)
- ☐ RWQCB 9
San Diego Region (9)

- ☐ Dept. of Transportation 8
Linda Grimes,
District 8
- ☐ Dept. of Transportation 9
Gayle Rosander
District 9
- ☐ Dept. of Transportation 10
Tom Dumas
District 10
- ☐ Dept. of Transportation 11
Bill Figue
District 11
- ☐ Dept. of Transportation 12
Bob Joseph
District 12
- ☐ Caltrans - Planning
Ron Helgeson
- ☐ California Highway Patrol
Lt. Julie Page
Office of Special Projects
- ☐ Housing & Community
Development
Cathy Creswell
Housing Policy Division
- ☐ Dept. of Transportation 1
Mike Eagan
District 1
- ☐ Dept. of Transportation 2
Don Anderson
District 2
- ☐ Dept. of Transportation 3
Jeff Pulverman
District 3
- ☐ Dept. of Transportation 4
Tim Sable
District 4
- ☐ Dept. of Transportation 5
David Murray
District 5
- ☐ Dept. of Transportation 6
Marc Birnbaum
District 6
- ☐ Dept. of Transportation 7
Stephen J. Buswell
District 7
- ☐ Air Resources Board
Airport Projects
Jim Lerner
- ☐ Transportation Projects
Kurt Karperos
- ☐ Industrial Projects
Mike Tollstrup
- ☐ California Integrated Waste
Management Board
Sud O'Leary
- ☐ State Water Resources Control
Board
Jim Hockenberry
Division of Financial Assistance
- ☐ State Water Resources Control
Board
Student Intern, 401 Water Quality
Certification Unit
Division of Water Quality
- ☐ State Water Resources Control Board
Mike Falkenstein
Division of Water Rights
- ☐ Dept. of Toxic Substances Control
CEQA Tracking Center

Cal EPA

- ☐ Public Utilities Commission
Ken Lewis
- ☒ State Lands Commission
Jean Sainio
- ☐ Tahoe Regional Planning
Agency (TRPA)
Lyn Barnett
- ☐ Business, Trans. & Housing
Caltrans - Division of
Aeronautics
Sandy Hesnard
- ☐ Caltrans - Planning
Ron Helgeson
- ☐ California Highway Patrol
Lt. Julie Page
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- ☐ Dept. of Transportation 4
Tim Sable
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- ☐ Dept. of Transportation 5
David Murray
District 5
- ☐ Dept. of Transportation 6
Marc Birnbaum
District 6
- ☐ Dept. of Transportation 7
Stephen J. Buswell
District 7

Resources Agency

- ☐ Dept. of Fish & Game 3
Robert Floerke
Region 3
- ☐ Dept. of Fish & Game 4
William Laudermilk
Region 4
- ☒ Dept. of Fish & Game 5
Don Chadwick
Region 5, Habitat Conservation
Program
- ☐ Dept. of Fish & Game 6
Gabriela Gatchel
Region 6, Habitat Conservation
Program
- ☐ Dept. of Fish & Game 6 UM
Tammy Allen
Region 6, Inyo/Mono, Habitat
Conservation Program
- ☐ Dept. of Fish & Game M
Tom Napoli
Marine Region
- ☐ Other Departments
- ☐ Food & Agriculture
Steve Shaffer
Dept. of Food and Agriculture
- ☐ Dept. of General Services
Robert Sleppy
Environmental Services Section
- ☐ Dept. of Health Services
Wayne Hubbard
Dept. of Health/Drinking Water
- ☐ Independent
Commissions, Boards
- ☐ Delta Protection Commission
Debby Eddy
- ☐ Office of Emergency Services
John Rowden, Manager
- ☐ Governor's Office of Planning
& Research
State Clearinghouse
- ☐ Native American Heritage
Comm.
Hebbie Treadway
- ☐ Resources Agency
Nadell Gayou
- ☐ Dept. of Boating & Waterways
Suzi Betzler
- ☒ California Coastal
Commission
Elizabeth A. Fuchs
- ☐ Colorado River Board
Gerald R. Zimmerman
- ☐ Dept. of Conservation
Roseanne Taylor
- ☐ California Energy
Commission
Environmental Office
- ☐ Dept. of Forestry & Fire
Protection
Allen Robertson
- ☒ Office of Historic
Preservation
Hans Kreutzberg
- ☐ Dept. of Parks & Recreation
B. Noah Tilghman
Environmental Stewardship
Section
- ☐ Reclamation Board
Lori Buford
- ☐ Santa Monica Mountains
Conservancy
Paul Edelman
- ☐ S.F. Bay Conservation &
Dev't. Comm.
Steve McAdam
- ☐ Dept. of Water Resources
Resources Agency
Nadell Gayou

Fish and Game

- ☐ Dept. of Fish & Game
Scott Flint
Environmental Services Division
- ☐ Dept. of Fish & Game 1
Donald Koch
Region 1
- ☐ Dept. of Fish & Game 2
Barry Curtis
Region 2

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Document Details Report State Clearinghouse Data Base

SCH# 2001021119
Project Title PRC-421 Pier Removal
Lead Agency California State Lands Commission

Type NOP Notice of Preparation
Description The project is the removal of a remnant pier structure and associated remnant pilings and debris and construction of bird roosting/nesting platforms in its place offshore of Santa Barbara County. The structure is presently in danger of collapse, and the pier removal will eliminate risks to public safety.

Lead Agency Contact

Name Eric L. Gillies
Agency California State Lands Commission
Phone 916/574-1897 **Fax**
email
Address 100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-South
City Sacramento **State** CA **Zip** 95825-8202

Project Location

County Santa Barbara
City Goleta
Region
Cross Streets
Parcel No.
Township 4N **Range** 29W **Section** **Base** SB

Proximity to:

Highways US 101, 1
Airports
Railways Southern Pacific
Waterways Pacific Ocean
Schools Ellwood Union
Land Use Abandoned Oil Pier

Project Issues Aesthetic/Visual; Agricultural Land; Air Quality; Archaeologic-Historic; Coastal Zone; Cumulative Effects; Geologic/Seismic; Landuse; Noise; Public Services; Recreation/Parks; Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading; Solid Waste; Toxic/Hazardous; Traffic/Circulation; Vegetation; Water Quality; Wildlife

Reviewing Agencies Resources Agency; California Coastal Commission; Office of Historic Preservation; Department of Parks and Recreation; Department of Fish and Game, Region 5; Native American Heritage Commission; State Lands Commission; Caltrans, District 5; Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 3

Date Received 10/10/2003 **Start of Review** 10/10/2003 **End of Review** 11/10/2003

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671		# of pages ▶ 2
To Dagna Hebert	From Eric Gillies	
Co. Padre	Co. State Lands	
Dept.	Phone # 916-574-1897	
Fax # 805-644-2050	Fax # 916-574-1885	

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David K. Sangster
7465 Hollister Ave. #434
Goleta, CA 93117-2537

November 7, 2003

Mr. Eric L. Gillies
California State Lands Commission
100 Howe Ave, Suite 100-South
Sacramento, CA 95825-8202

Subject: Comments on the NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
REPORT ON A REVISED PROJECT - **Toppling of 'Bird Island's Caissons and Installing Four Roosts**
EIR No.: 714
W30130

Sch No.: 20010211190

(Dated October 9, 2003, California State Lands Commission)

Dear Mr. Gillies:

At the October 30, 2003 public scoping meeting I discussed some of my concerns about the impacts of the revised project, and presented alternatives that may reduce or mitigate those impacts. This letter reiterates some of those concerns, and as a result of additional information from the meeting and the two roost reports that I recently received from Padre Associates, Inc., adds a few more.

The original plan would have removed all the debris from the site as required. The revised plan has mitigated the loss of the roosting area by building new roosts, which is fine, except that there seems to be no good discussion of the siting or design. The design seems questionable, and the plan to leave the toppled caissons on the seafloor does not seem to meet the requirement that all debris is removed and the site completely cleaned. Even the debris removal before the caissons are toppled is not complete, and thus they may fall on some remaining debris and bury it. Once the quarry rock is dumped there will be no opportunity for future cleanup. Both sea conditions and water visibility may make cleanup difficult and hard to verify before the quarry rock is dumped. The only reason given for leaving the caissons and for the added quarry rock was to help support the four piles; however, the footprint shown at the scoping hearing extends much further from the location of the piles. Why can't the caissons be removed and only sufficient quarry rock be placed around the piles? It was clearly stated at the meeting that this was neither an artificial reef nor a rigs-to-reef project. What is the purpose of a "hard substrate habitat"? At the meeting I stated that any rigs-to-reef project should meet careful design, materials and siting criteria and that the original site should not be used. Any debris that is appropriate for an artificial reef should be carefully cleaned and transported to a scientifically selected site where it is used for a well designed artificial reef. The same criteria should be applied here if any of the debris is to be reused.

A poorly designed roost and/or a poorly sited roost may actually be detrimental to a bird population. Roosts are exposed to the elements and to human disturbances. If a roost appears attractive to a species of birds and they use it, they cannot be aware of the potential dangers that may arise quickly and threaten their wellbeing. If there is no cover and they could be blown off in a storm, then the design is not good. Natural roosts and nesting sites should be carefully looked at for design ideas. I would guess that a very large rock or small island with some low shrub cover would be ideal – as seen on Santa Cruz Island at Little Scorpion. Scorpion rock is also a nesting site. Manmade structures are flat, and although they may provide a fair weather roost

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Mr. Eric L. Gillies
November 7, 2003
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site most of the year, they may be dangerous during storms. A study of foul weather roosts would be useful. Nighttime roosts are also important, and the roost reports locate several along the coast, but they do not list the important design factors that could be used to locate and build a man-made roost. A lot of questions should be asked and careful planning occur before any roost is built – design, materials and location should be carefully thought out. Alternative designs should be presented, and I would suggest a cone shape structure on four piles with some wind breaks and rounded edges. There could also be some cross rafters underneath for additional roosts.

At the hearing I asked what factors were used to determine the proposed design and location. A 100-year wave criterion was named as the reason for the 57-foot height of the roost, which seems to be very high and in the full wind stream. Regarding the location a reference to a CDFG report was made and it was pointed out that there are very few roosts along the coast. The two roost reports clearly show the limited number of roosts in the Santa Barbara Channel, and specifically mention the importance of the Coal Oil Point, Sandpiper Pier as a “significant” day roost site and a minor or questionable night roost. It was not evident that it is a Brown Pelican nesting site. However, quoting the report: **“If the platform is removed, it is recommended that mitigation for loss of this high quality roost site be pursued and roost site creation be enacted at another location”**. Clearly, many locations along the coast would be appropriate, and good design considerations should be taken into account. I would guess that CDFG would expect that the current site is cleaned up as required, and mitigation would call for a reasonably well designed roost to be placed in a suitable location. Since it is experimental, maybe a couple of designs should be tried.

The proposed location is isolated – the only direct view is from the Sandpiper Golf Course, which is not lighted or used at night. Lights from the Bacara Resort and the Venoco plant may be disruptive, but more disturbing are the infrequent fireworks shows. I would suggest looking at alternative sites such as off of the proposed Elwood-Devereux Open Space. The roost could be observed by the public from the higher bluffs, which may also offer a little more protection from offshore winds. The height should also be as low as possible – the 100-year wave criterion seems drastic.

I found a picture of the derelict platform, probably taken in 1980, before it was substantially destroyed. It is in the book “California from the Air, The Golden Coast” pages 35, with aerial photography by Baron Wolman, 1981. Numerous cormorants and maybe a few pelicans can be seen roosting – the pelicans are towards the right. A recent picture shows that a lot of the steel rafters are gone. They are now probably on the sea floor and should be removed. A color scan from the book is attached.

Sincerely,

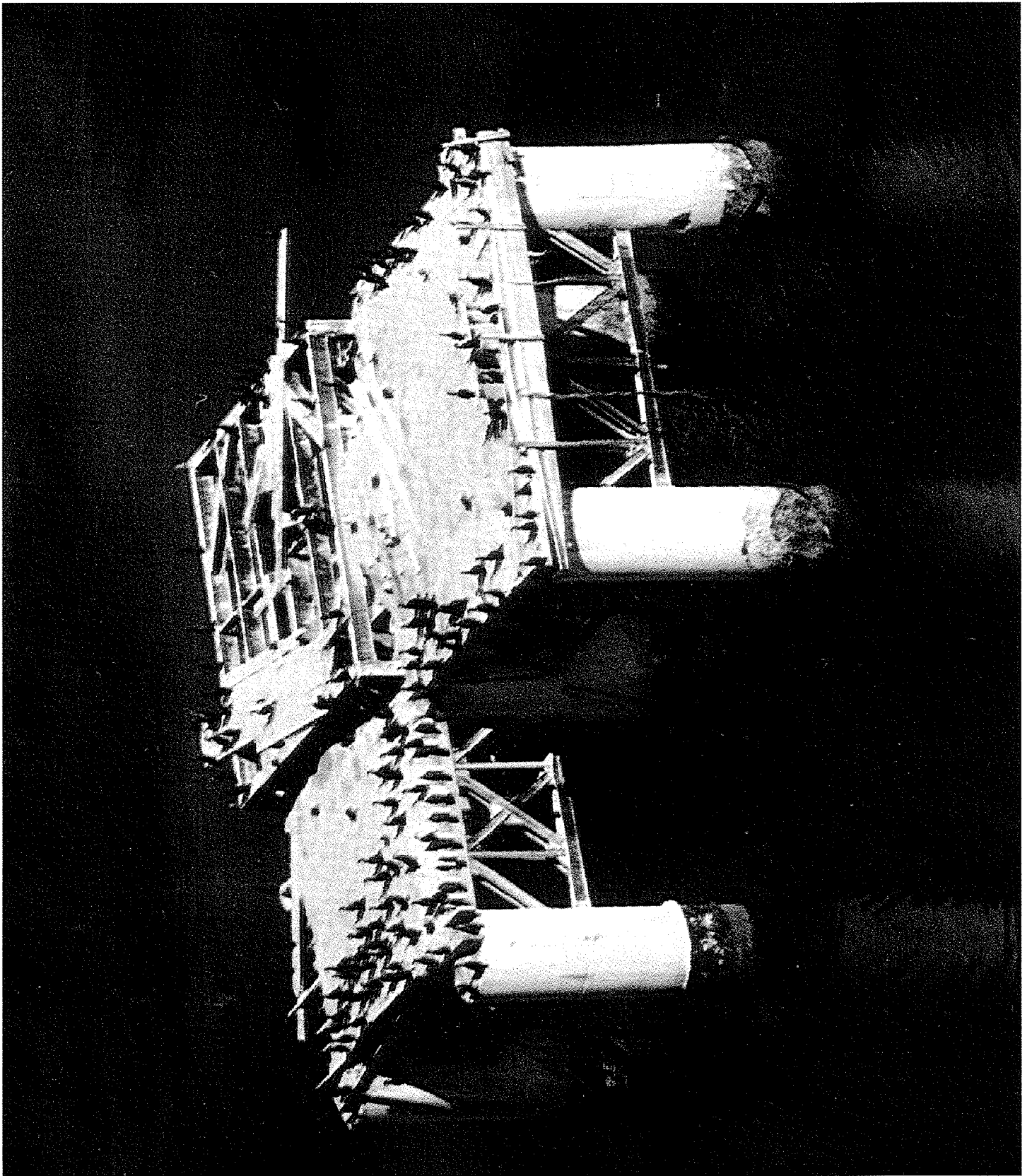


David K. Sangster

Phone (805) 9680058, e-mail daksangstr@juno.com

CC: Simon Poulter, Padre Associates, Inc.
Craig S. Strong, Crescent Coastal Research
Ken Curtis, City of Goleta

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Planning and Environmental Services
6500 Hollister Avenue, Suite 120, Goleta, CA 93117
Phone: (805) 961-7500 Fax: (805) 685-2635

City Council:
Jack Hawxhurst, Mayor
Cynthia Brock, Mayor Pro Tem
Jean Blois
Margaret Connell
Jonny D. Wallis

October 31, 2003

Mr. Eric L. Gillies
California State Lands Commission
100 Howe Ave., Suite 100 South
Sacramento, CA 95825-8202

Subject: NOP for Revised PRC-421 Pier Removal Project

Dear Mr. Gillies:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Notice of Preparation for the Revised PRC-421 Pier Removal Project. The following comments are provided on behalf of the City of Goleta.

Of the project's potential environmental impacts, the City is most concerned about:

1. Potential injuries and deaths of marine mammals, fish, and seabirds during the demolition of the existing offshore structures;
2. Any changes in beach processes, including potential changes in sand supply to down-drift beaches, posed by the proposed creation of additional hard bottom area (artificial reef); and
3. The visual impacts of the new seabird nesting/roosting platforms.

The City acknowledges that the project description and probable environmental effects sections in the NOP identify these potential impacts and state that they will be analyzed in the EIR. We look forward to receiving the draft EIR and will likely have additional comments at that time.


If you have any questions about these concerns, you may contact me at (805) 961-7540.

Sincerely,

Kenneth M. Curtis
Director of Planning & Environmental Services



**Santa Barbara County
Air Pollution Control District**

Our Vision  Clean Air

3 November 2003

Eric Gillies
California State Lands Commission
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-South
Sacramento, CA 95825

Regarding: NOP for Draft EIR on Revised PRC-421 Pier Removal Project.

Dear Mr. Gillies:

The Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) offers the following comments regarding the draft EIR for the Pier removal Project:

1. The emissions from the marine vessels used in removing the project components will be subject to APCD permit, unless total project emissions per pollutant are below 1.0 ton per year.
2. The engines used in removing the project components will be subject to APCD permit unless otherwise exempt from permit requirements (e.g., an engine has a California Portable Equipment Registration Program permit).
3. Pursuant to APCD Rule 201.D.2, an APCD permit may also be required for the equipment and vessels used to construct the new bird roosting/nesting platforms if the potential to emit of the equipment exceeds 25 tons in a twelve month period.
4. A comprehensive description of all equipment should be provided as well as the methodology and assumptions used to estimate emissions.
5. Please contact Mr. Brian Shafritz, Engineering Supervisor, regarding any questions concerning APCD permitting requirements for this proposed project. He may be reached at 805.961.8823.

We look forward to receiving the DEIR. Please call me at 805.961.8812 or contact me by e-mail at tanr@sbcapcd.org if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Ron Tan

cc: TEA Chron

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